

THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS  
TODAY AND TOMORROW

# BYELORUSSIA

THE LIBRARY  
Southwest Texas State College  
**Speeding Towards Abundance**  
San Marcos, Texas



Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

by

**T. Y. Kiselev**

Chairman of the Byelorussian SSR  
Council of Ministers

Soviet  
Booklet  
60/C

6<sup>D</sup>

THE FIFTEEN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
TODAY AND TOMORROW

# BYELORUSSIA

## *Speeding Towards Abundance*

by

T. Y. KISELEV

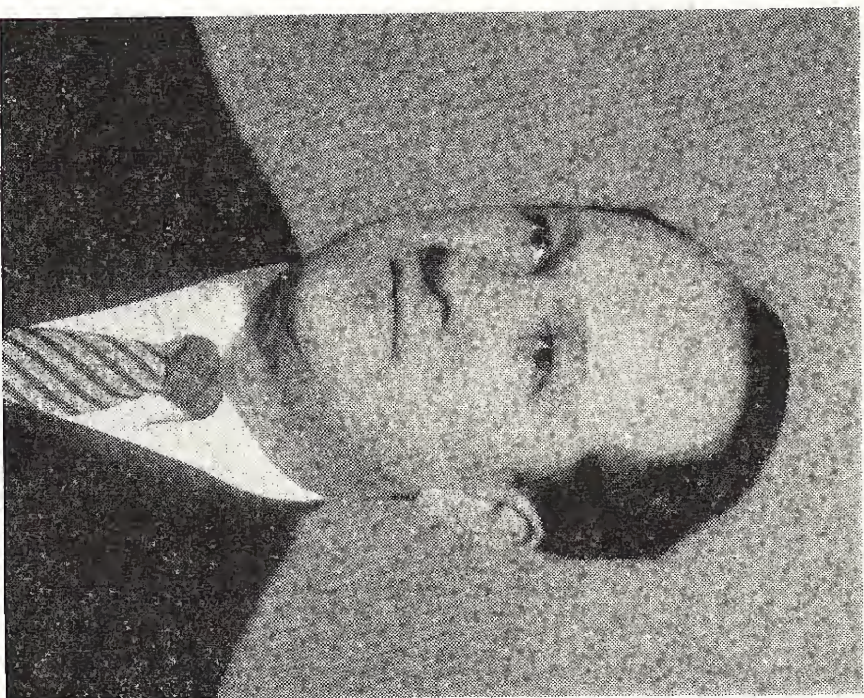
Chairman of the Byelorussian S.S.R.

Council of Ministers





THE LIBRARY  
Southwest Texas State College  
San Marcos, Texas



TIKHON YAKOVLEVICH KISELEV

150452

## A Note on the Author

TIKHON YAKOVLEVICH KISELEV was born in 1917 in the village of Ogorodnya near the Byelorussian city of Gomel, in the family of a peasant. He finished a teachers' training school in 1936 and until 1944 worked in education, first as a teacher and then as a headmaster.

After 1944 Kiselev was mainly preoccupied with Party activities, and in 1955 he was elected a Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Byelorussia.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian S.S.R., he took an active part in the work of the U.N. Since 1959 he has been Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian Republic.

## Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

### A Glance At the Map

**B**YELOURUSSIA, one of the fifteen Republics of the Soviet Union, occupies a territory of 83,000 square miles in the western part of the U.S.S.R. It is a country of plains, its highest point being less than 1,000 feet above the lowest.

Its north-western region is covered with hills, the south-eastern is low-land, while the south is an area of endless swamps, the Polesye.

The Republic has about 4,000 lakes, and over a fourth of its territory is covered with forests.

The animal life of the Republic is rather diverse. Here the elk and the deer are to be found. The aurochs has been preserved in the Byelovezhskaya Pushcha reserve. This extremely rare animal was almost completely destroyed during the war, but of late its number has considerably increased.

Other animals that are widespread here are the wild boar, squirrel and hare. The basins of the Sozh, Berezina, Pripjat and Dnieper are inhabited by the beaver.

Swamps and marsh-ridden lands cover an area of over 15 million acres. The drained peat-bogs of this Republic are as fertile as the finest black-earth regions. They produce high yields of grain, hemp, potatoes, sugar beet, corn, grass and other crops.

For a long time Byelorussia was considered very poor in minerals, but this was not really so.

**Of late, tremendous deposits of potassium and rock salts have been discovered here, promising deposits of oil and coal, and a number of deposits of valuable building materials that can be easily worked, among them limestone, clay and sand.**

Byelorussia's supplies of peat are practically inexhaustible.

According to the census of January 15, 1959, Byelorussia has a population of 8,060,000 people, or about 4 per cent of the population of the U.S.S.R. Most of the people are Byelorussians.

### Member of a United Family

The Byelorussian people have a long history, but it was only forty years ago, after the victory of the October Socialist Revolution in Russia, that the Byelorussian people acquired their own statehood and the right to their own independent national development.

January 1, 1919, saw the publication of the Manifesto of the Provisional Workers' and Peasants' Government of Byelorussia, proclaiming the creation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

This historical act was given legal backing by the first All-Byelorussian Congress of the Soviets of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies, which was held in Minsk in February 1919. The Congress adopted the

THE LIBRARY  
Southwest Texas State College  
San Marcos, Texas



first Constitution of the Byelorussian S.S.R. and the Declaration on the Establishment of Federative Ties with the Fraternal Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

To ensure reciprocal assistance in the fields of economy, politics, and also defence, the Byelorussian S.S.R., in December 1922, voluntarily joined together with all the other equal Soviet Socialist Republics to form the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This played a decisive role in the development of the Republic's statehood, economy and culture, in strengthening her sovereignty and fraternal co-operation with all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

**Byelorussia exercises state power independently and enjoys all sovereign rights including the right of free secession from the U.S.S.R., the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements with them, and to exchange diplomatic representatives. Byelorussia is one of the founder states of the U.N., and has its representatives in U.N. organs.**

The supreme organ of state power of the Byelorussian S.S.R. is its Supreme Soviet which is elected for a period of four years by universal, equal, direct, and secret ballot. Between sessions of the Supreme Soviet its presidium, which is elected by the Supreme Soviet from among its deputies, is the highest organ of power.

The present, fifth, Supreme Soviet of Byelorussia has 407 deputies. Its composition vividly reflects the democratic character of the Soviet system. About half of the deputies are workers and peasants. The others are representatives of the working intelligentsia.

The deputies of the Supreme Soviet represent all the nationalities inhabiting the Republic, Byelorussians, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles and Jews: 149, or more than a third of the entire Supreme Soviet, are women.

The highest executive and administrative organ of state power in Byelorussia is the Council of Ministers, which is formed by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic.

### A Long History

The history of Byelorussia and its people dates back to antiquity. Long ago various Slavonic tribes settled here, in the basin of the Dnieper, the Krivichi, Radimichi and Dregovich, the forerunners of the present-day Byelorussians. They lived by hunting and fishing, and by growing rye and flax.

The Byelorussian land was invaded many times.

In the fourteenth century a wave of Tartar invasions, already weakened by the heroic resistance of the Russian people, swept over this country.

The troops of Charles XII of Sweden marched across Byelorussian soil; Napoleon's forces traversed it twice, and it was here, near the city of Borisov, that his troops, fleeing from Russia, received their final blow on crossing the Berezina River.

For a number of centuries Byelorussia was ruled by Lithuanian princes and Polish magnates. The Kaiser's and Hitler's invaders plundered the country and shed the blood of its people.

But neither foreign invaders nor local oppressors succeeded in bringing the working people to their knees. The Byelorussian people were not

alone in this difficult struggle of theirs. The Russian and Ukrainian peoples invariably proved to be their faithful friends, and it was thanks to **their** powerful support that Byelorussia succeeded in preserving itself.

This great unity enabled the Byelorussian people to combat social and national oppression, helped them maintain their national features, and inspired them with hope for a better future.

Without a knowledge of the past it is always difficult to evaluate the present. And if we wish to understand properly the changes that have taken place in Byelorussia in the historically brief period that has elapsed since the October Socialist Revolution, we must know something about the life of the Byelorussian people in the grim days of tsarism.

### How the People Lived

The peasantry could hardly keep body and soul together, they had so little soil from which to obtain a living. About 40 per cent of arable land belonged to 3,540 rich landowners, and less than 24 per cent of land, and the worst at that, belonged to the poor and middle farmers, who numbered 645,000. The rest of the land was owned by middle and small landowners, *kulaks*\*, the state treasury and the Church.

The workers were perhaps even worse off. Miserable earnings, a thirteen to fourteen-hour working day, the complete absence of any laws to safeguard working conditions, absence of mechanisation, incredibly crowded living conditions, and the high cost of living, every kind of oppression, heavy fines—all these made life intolerable.

There was practically no medical services in the country. One doctor had to serve more than 10,000 people, and the average radius of his activities was thirty-three miles, while in some places of Polesye it was 60 miles.

**Is it any wonder, then, that the mortality rate in Byelorussia was 30 per 1,000, and the average span of life did not exceed thirty-two years?**

In addition to their harsh economic and social conditions, the Byelorussian people suffered from national oppression. The people had no rights and were not allowed to take any part in managing their country.

The teaching of the Byelorussian language was forbidden. Four out of every five Byelorussians were unable to write their own names. There was not a single higher educational institution in the whole of this vast region.

### Workers' and Peasants' Struggles

Under tsarism Byelorussia was the frequent scene of peasant disturbances and uprisings. The Byelorussian workers' movement, too, has many glorious traditions. Organisations of the Russian Social-Democratic Party were formed in many Byelorussian towns, and the first congress of the Party actually took place in Minsk in 1898. In 1905, during the first Russian Revolution, Soviets of Workers' Deputies were set up in Byelorussia.

Shortly before the October Revolution Lenin wrote:

\* Capitalist farmers who derived their income from exploiting wage-labour combined with trading, pawning, rent from land and the hiring out of cattle and tools.—*E.d.*



"Russia is an incredibly, unprecedentedly backward country, impoverished and half savage, with one-fourth of the modern production equipment that Britain has, one-fifth of what Germany has and one-tenth of what America has."

This held true for Byelorussia too. Its trade pattern showed only too clearly the state of its economy.

Byelorussia supplied the home and foreign markets with hemp, timber, and tar, and had to import everything made of metal.

**Its chief "export" item was manpower. The impoverished peasants, in complete despair of being able to earn a living in their native land, proved easy prey for recruiting agents who went around the Byelorussian villages.**

What was the cause of this great tragedy?

There is only one answer: the former social system.

I have given this account of old Byelorussia so that the reader may understand better why the ordinary people in our Republic treasure so much the new system, why they defended it so doggedly during the years of civil war and the grim days of the Hitlerite invasion, and why they worked to selflessly to restore and develop the national economy after the destructive wars.

### Starting Point

The great starting point which marked the change from darkness to light in the life of our people was the October Socialist Revolution, carried through under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, led by Lenin.

Side by side with the Russian, Ukrainian and other peoples of tsarist Russia, the Byelorussians loyally fought for the victory of the October Socialist Revolution.

**The morning of October 26 (November 8) 1917, the very next day following the victory of the revolution in Petrograd, the Minsk Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies announced that the power had passed into the hands of the Soviets.**

The post-October years were years of soaring economic and cultural advance for Byelorussia.

By 1940 Byelorussia's share in the total industrial production of the U.S.S.R. had increased more than two-and-a-half times compared with pre-revolutionary times, while the total volume of the Republic's industrial output had increased eight times.

The peasants decided to run their agriculture on collective lines. Their collective farms received 20 million acres of land from the state for their permanent use.

The tractor and combine replaced the wooden plough and flail, and modern scientific techniques were applied to farming. The crops increased from year to year, as did livestock productivity.

A genuine cultural revolution took place in the country. By 1940 the entire population of this Republic had become literate. The western regions, which became part of the Republic in 1939, also made rapid cultural progress. The period just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War witnessed a rapid development of our national art and literature.

### In the Front Line

In 1941, Nazi Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union. From the very first day of the war, Byelorussia was in the front line.

The Byelorussian people displayed wonderful heroism in defending their socialist homeland. Over one million of its sons and daughters joined the ranks of the Soviet Army and fought heroically side by side with the Russian people and the other peoples of the Soviet Union.

The feat of the Byelorussian guerrillas has gone down in the history of the Great Patriotic War in letters of gold. The partisan movement, headed and directed by Communists, embraced all Byelorussia.

The partisans engaged numerous Nazi military units and formations, destroyed enemy communications and transport lines, and organised the famous "war on rails".

**There were vast regions in the Republic, "partisan areas", which the invaders were unable to penetrate. There, deep in the enemy rear, organisations of the Communist Party and Soviet power functioned.**

For outstanding military exploits, over 300,000 Byelorussian servicemen and more than 100,000 Byelorussian partisans were awarded Orders and Medals.

By their courageous struggle against the fascist invaders, the Byelorussian people won universal esteem. The names of its glorious sons and daughters—Vice-Admiral Yakov Drozd, General Lev Dovator, the flyers Nikolai Gastello and Alexander Horovets, the sniper Feodosy Smolyachkov, the partisans Konstantin Zaslouov, Tikhon Bumazhkov, Vera Khorunzhaya, Zinaida Portnova, and many others will live forever in the memories of the peoples.

### Terrible Devastation

By the summer of 1944 Byelorussia was completely cleared of the enemy. The blows dealt the Republic by the war were serious ones, and its economy suffered a terrible setback.

**The invaders had burned and destroyed 209 of its 270 towns and workers' settlements, all of its 10,000 industrial enterprises, and thousands of villages.**

Such cities as Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk and Polotsk were destroyed almost completely. The total losses caused by the enemy exceeded 75,000 million roubles.

Never before in the course of its history had Byelorussia suffered such complete and general destruction. The losses in people were particularly great. It is one of the two Soviet Republics which, almost fifteen years after the termination of the war, have still not reached the pre-war population figures.

**The fascists exterminated 2,200,000 inhabitants and war prisoners and drove off some 300,000 people to slave labour in Germany.**

After Byelorussia was liberated the people enthusiastically took up the task of reconstruction. By 1950, only five years after the war had ended, the Republic had reached its pre-war production levels.



### Two Weeks Are Equal to a Year

In January 1959 the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic celebrated its fortieth anniversary.

These two-score years occupy a special place in the life of our people. They are equivalent to centuries of "normal" development.

Take our industry, for example.

**In 1958 the total volume of our industrial output exceeded the 1913 level twenty-seven times. This means that two weeks of today's industrial calendar are equivalent to a whole year compared with the past.**

Industry has been developing especially rapidly since the end of the war. In 1945 the volume of industrial output amounted to only a fifth of the pre-war 1940 figure. Today it is more than three-and-a-half times the 1940 level.

This development is not only a quantitative one. Branches of industry that are absolutely new for this Republic have been created. Byelorussia now puts out automobiles and tractors, heavy lathes, cranes, clocks, electric instruments, pianos, sewing machines, woollen and linen fabrics, artificial fibre, knitted goods, leather footwear, furniture, and hundreds of other articles of the light and food industries.

The role of the Republic in the production of the entire Soviet Union has greatly increased in importance. It now produces one out of every six bicycles, one out of eleven motor-cycles, and one out of every six tons of peat.

These figures help to illustrate the advantages of the new socialist principle of distributing the productive forces. There are no regions or areas in the U.S.S.R. which play the role of an agrarian raw-materials appendage.

The Soviet Union consists of Republics which have equal rights and in which the various branches of the economy are developed harmoniously, to the greatest benefit to the people and to society as a whole.

### A Changed Appearance

The rapid development of industry has fundamentally changed the appearance of the country.

In the east of the Republic there are such huge industrial centres as Gomel, Vitebsk and Mogilyov. Further, many small towns have now become industrial centres, as Krichev, Dobrush, Orsha, Rogachev, Bobruisk and Borisov.

In a sense, the western half of the Republic is half the age of the eastern, since it only joined the U.S.S.R. in 1939. This naturally leaves a certain imprint on the nature of its economy.

In recent years, much has been done to develop the economy and culture of the western regions.

Baranovich, which, under the rule of the Polish landowners, did not have a single enterprise of any importance whatever, now has a plant which produces building parts, a plant for repairing tractor and automobile motors, a shoe factory, clothing and knitted goods factories, and many others.

The town of Lida has become an important industrial centre, with its own agricultural machine building, rubber footwear and food industries. Skidel, formerly an insignificant town, has become the first Byelorussian sugar centre. The industry of Pinsk, Molodechno, Brest and many other towns is also growing.

Finally, there is the town of Grodno, which has become one of the large industrial centres in the west of our Republic. Formerly a town of small artisans, it now has dozens of large enterprises, a mill for the production of fine fabrics, a foundry and machine plant, a shoe factory, plants for the production of building materials, and many others.

### Minsk

Special mention should be made of the Byelorussian capital, the city of Minsk.

The life of this city has been a truly remarkable one. History knows few instances of such a rapid advance. Within a few years Minsk became an industrial centre of country-wide importance, one of the largest cities of the Soviet Union.

Gigantic bearing, motor-cycle and bicycle, automobile and tractor plants have been erected there. The city also has its own radio works, two machine-tool plants which can be said to have been reborn anew, since the end of the war, a cloth mill and many other large enterprises. The buildings of the Minsk worsted goods mill are going up on the outskirts of the city. This will be one of the largest mills in the country.

Next to the tractor plant an enterprise for the production of automobile transfer lines, aggregate and special machine tools and a plant for tractor spare parts are being erected.

In the centre of the city a printing works is being built, and further on along the Moscow Highway, a watch factory is under construction. Technical innovations are constantly being introduced into Byelorussia's industry. Its engineers and workers design ever more improved types of machines, machine-tools and instruments, and automation and the most modern technological processes are making their way into its industry on an ever wider scale.

The awards bestowed upon the workers of Byelorussian enterprises at the World Fair in Brussels evidence the maturity of Byelorussian technical development.

For instance, its "MAZ-530" tip-lorry won a "Grand Prix" at the exhibition. This car has a carrying capacity of 40 tons, is the first tractor produced by the Minsk tractor works and a corn-and-strawage harvesting combine of the Gomel agricultural machine works. Others were awarded honorary certificates, while the "Druzhba" (Fellowship) radio, a product of the Minsk radio plant, won a gold medal.

### The New Village

The old Byelorussian village is now a thing of the past. It has been given way to the new collective farm village, with its tractors and combines, radio and electricity, schools and clubs. In 1958, 500,000 new houses were built, and about 51,000 tractors (in terms of horsepower) were put into use.



vesting combines, and scores of thousands of other agricultural machines work on the fields of this Republic.

**The pre-revolutionary level of agricultural production has long been surpassed. The cultivated areas have been increased by 2½ million acres. The production of industrial crops has grown tremendously, and there has been a considerable advance in the output of livestock products.**

Since the historical meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in September 1953 the Byelorussian village has made particularly great progress.

In 1957 a movement to solve the country-wide task, that of overtaking the United States of America in *per capita* production of meat, milk and butter, got under way in Byelorussia, as everywhere else in the Soviet Union. And in 1958 this Republic not only overtook but even surpassed the United States in *per capita* production of milk.

Byelorussia now produces more milk and butter per head of the population than Britain and Italy, more meat than Britain and Norway, two and half times more flax than Belgium, and ten times more than France.

### Five Years of Stupendous Progress

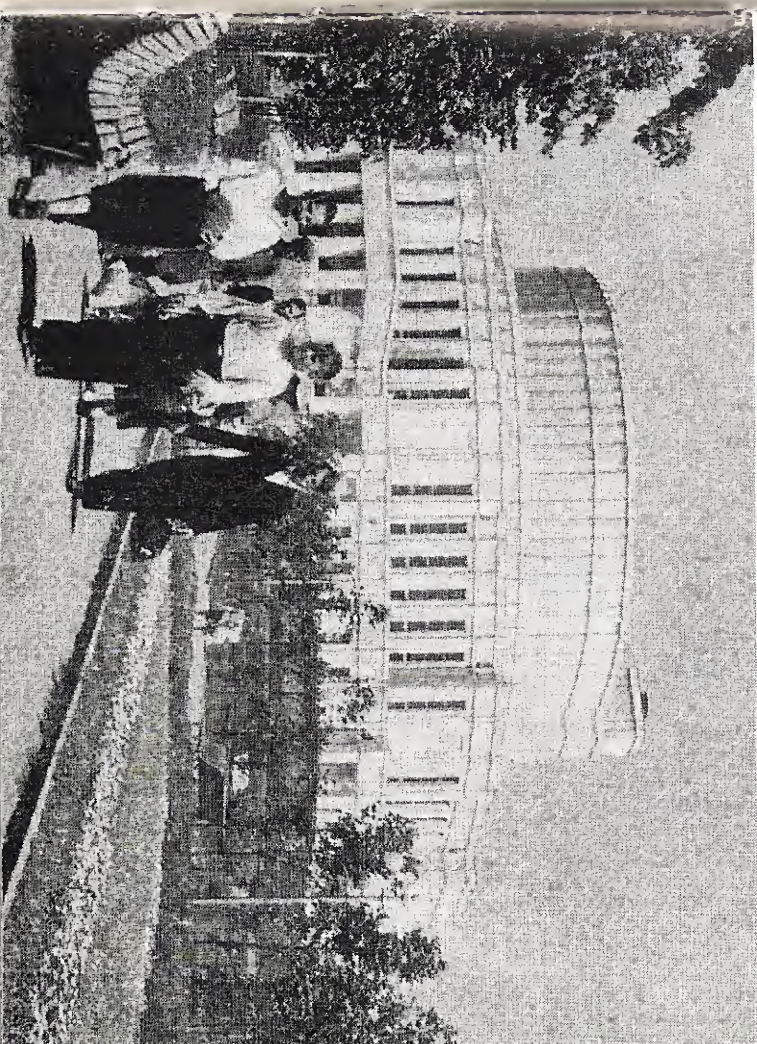
In order to give the reader an idea of the changes that have taken place in our collective farms in the past five years we give the following figures for one of them, the Chkalov collective farm, Borisov District, Minsk Region:

	1953	1958
Area of arable land (in acres) ..	5,400	5,730
Yield of grain crops (cwt. per acre) ..	3.8	10.9
Gross grain harvest (in tons) ..	456	1,310
Yield of flax fibre (in cwt.) ..	2.9	5.4
Gross flax fibre crop (in tons) ..	18	95
Number of head of cattle ..	586	863
Of that number—cows ..	185	390
Pigs ..	203	1,060
Amount of milk obtained per cow (in cwt.) ..	18.6	66.8
Gross production of milk (in tons) ..	168	1,160
Meat (in tons) ..	22	280
Of that amount—pork (in tons) ..	2.7	131
Production of meat per 100 acres of land (in cwt.) ..	4.6	57.6
Of that amount—pork per 100 acres of arable land (in cwt.) ..	.96	57
Production of milk per 100 acres of land (in cwt.) ..	33	232
Total monetary income (in thousand rubles) ..	386,000	6,500,000

During the past few years the collective farm has put up eighteen livestock buildings, electrification of the farm has been completed, a seven-year and two elementary schools have been built, and the construction of a collective farm hospital is being completed. The farm has installed

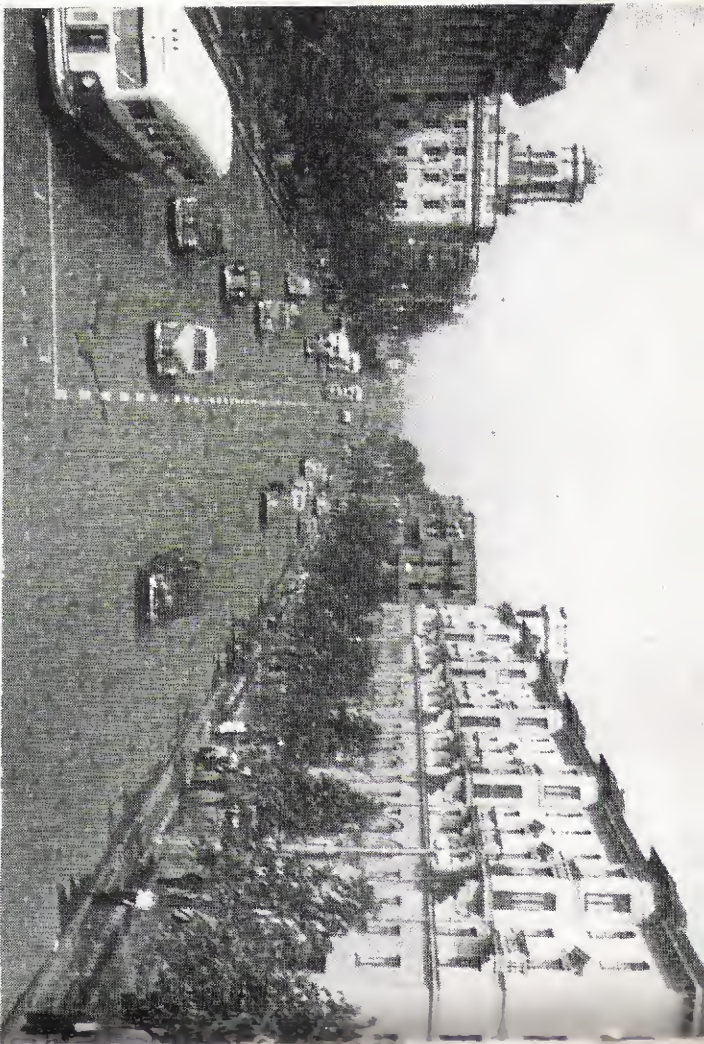


Government House of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in Minsk, the capital city.

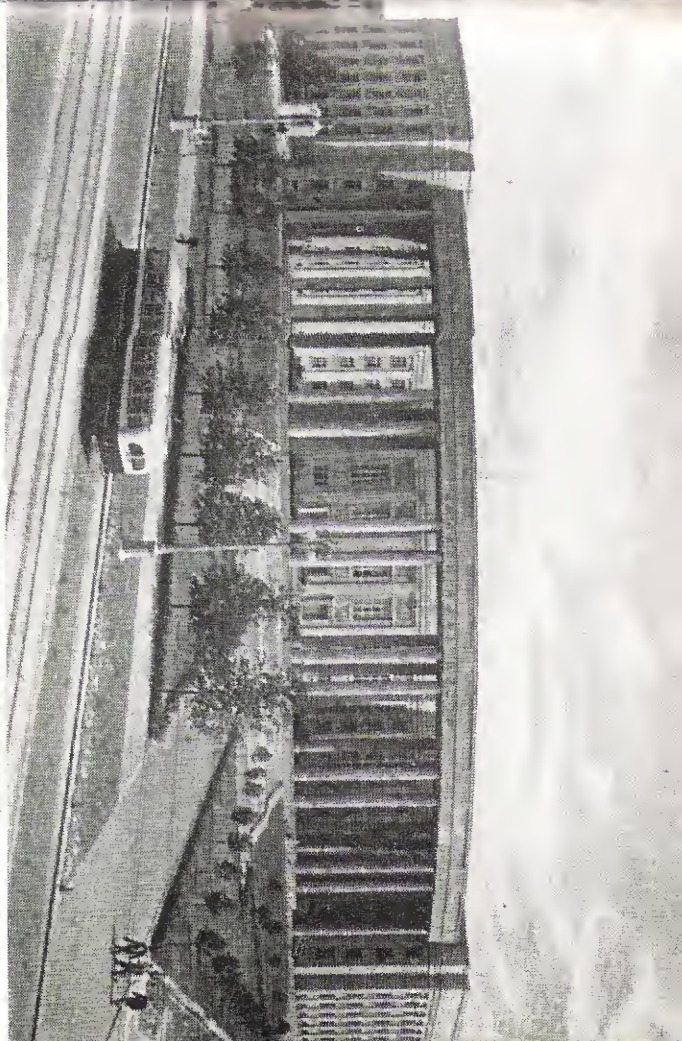


The State Opera and Ballet Theatre in Minsk.





*Stalin Prospect,  
Minsk.*



*The Belorussian  
Academy of  
Sciences in Minsk.*

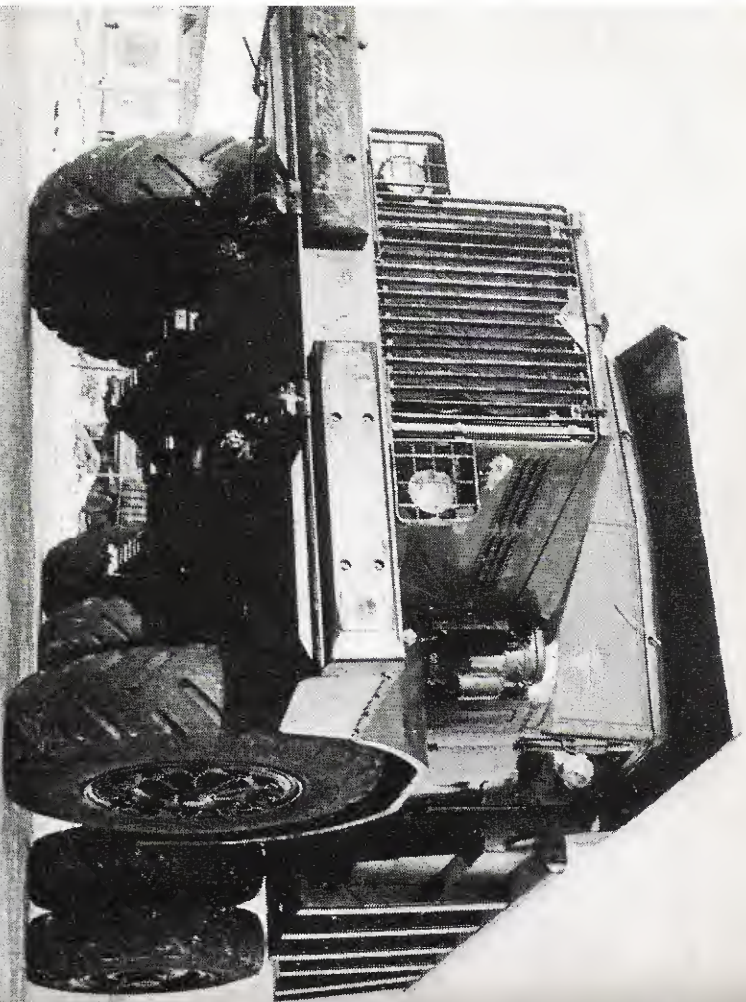


*The Regional  
Drama Theatre,  
Gomel.*



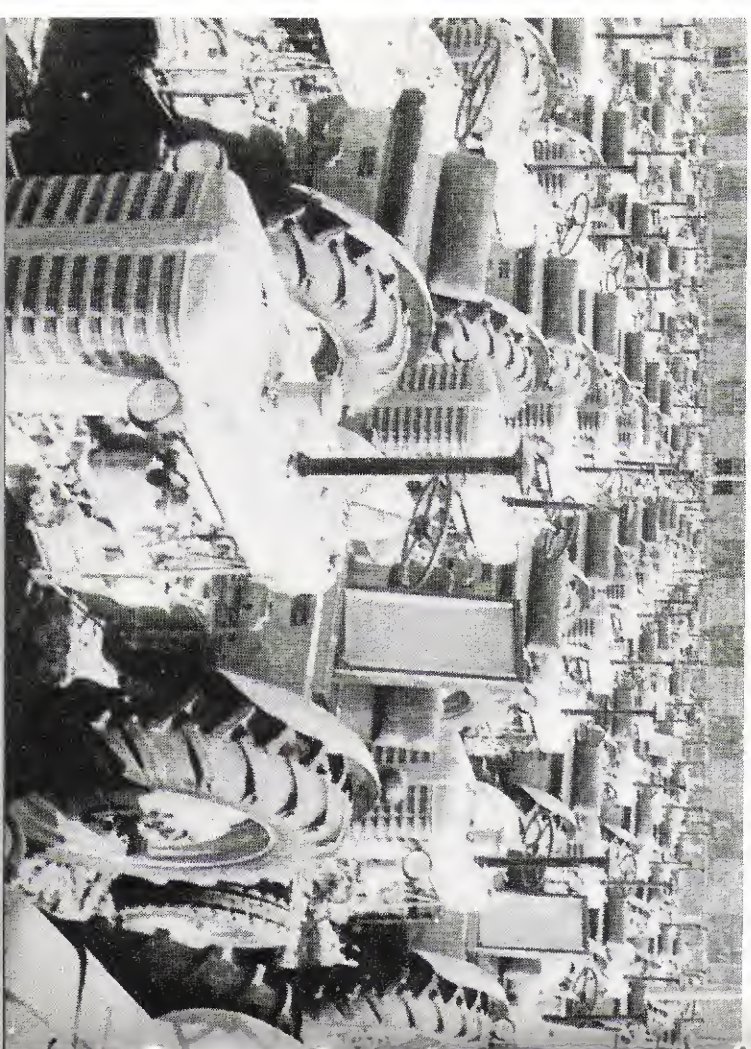
*The Svisloch River  
Embankment and  
TV tower, Minsk.*





*The MAZ-525, 25-ton tip-lorry made at the Minsk motor works. It is not the largest, for there is also a 40-tonner.*

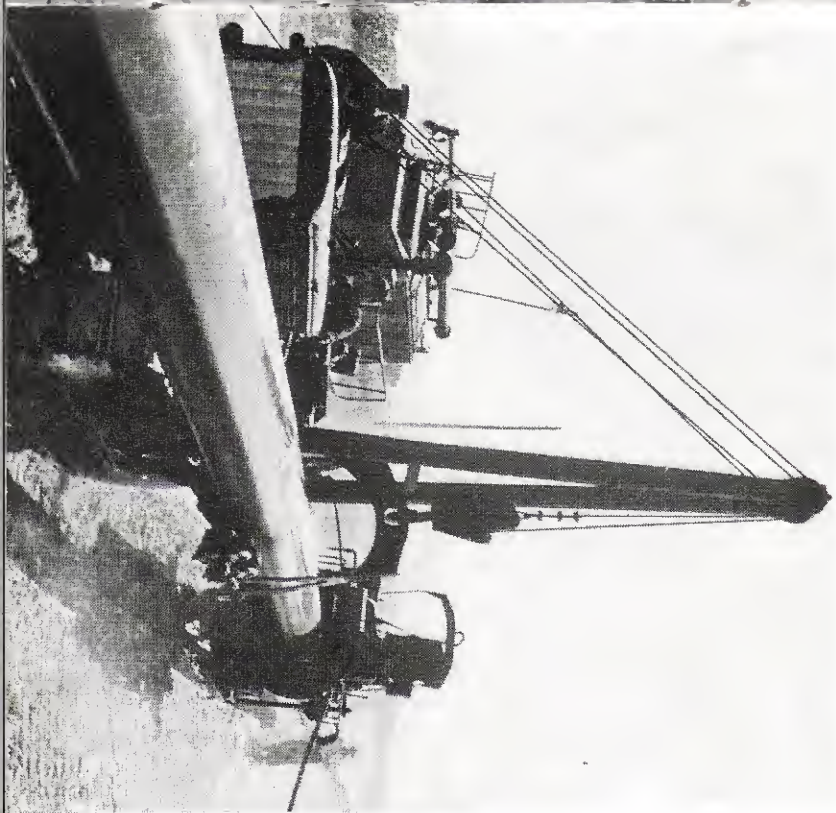
*Newly-made tractors at the Minsk tractor factory.*



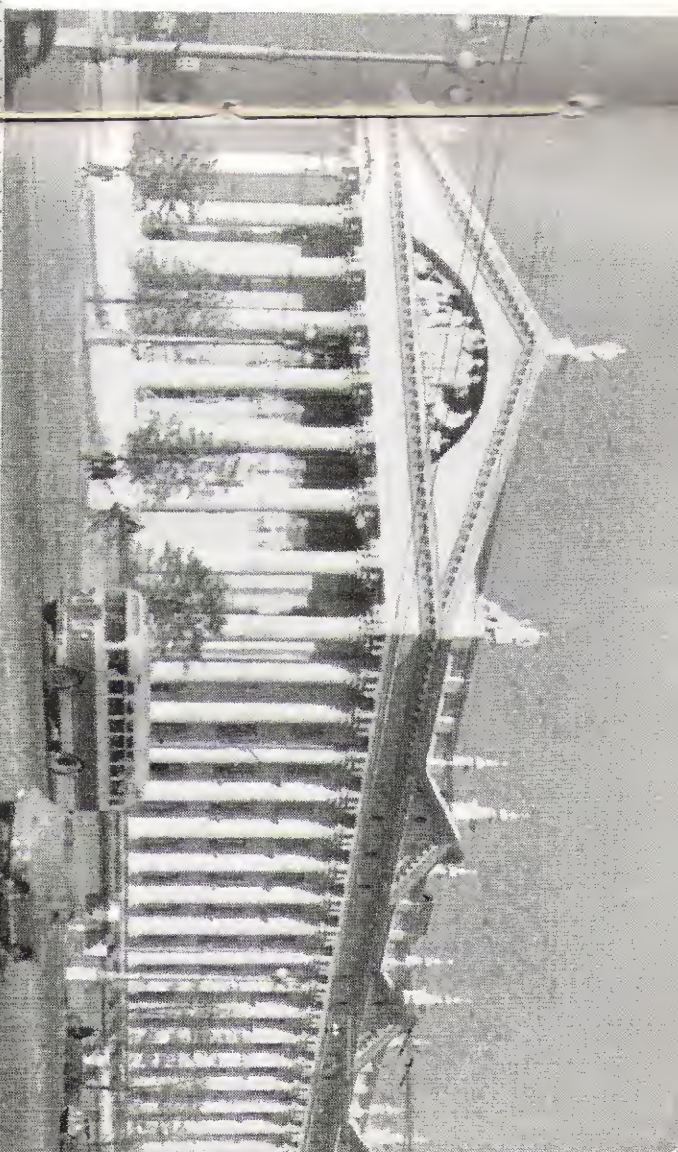
*In the weaving shop of the Vitebsk silk-weaving mill.*



*Insulating pipes against corrosion as a gas pipeline is laid to the town of Gomel.*







## VIEWS IN MINSK

Top left: Blocks of railwaymen's flats on Privokzalnaya Square.

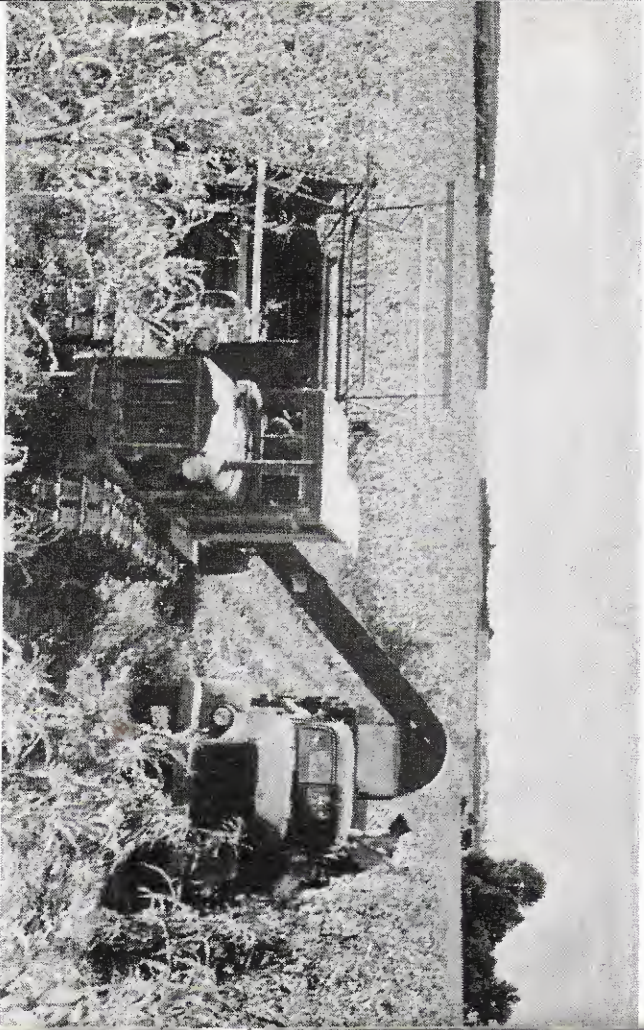
Top right: The Palace of Trade Unions.

Bottom left: Looking down Soviet Street.

The State Polytechnical Institute.





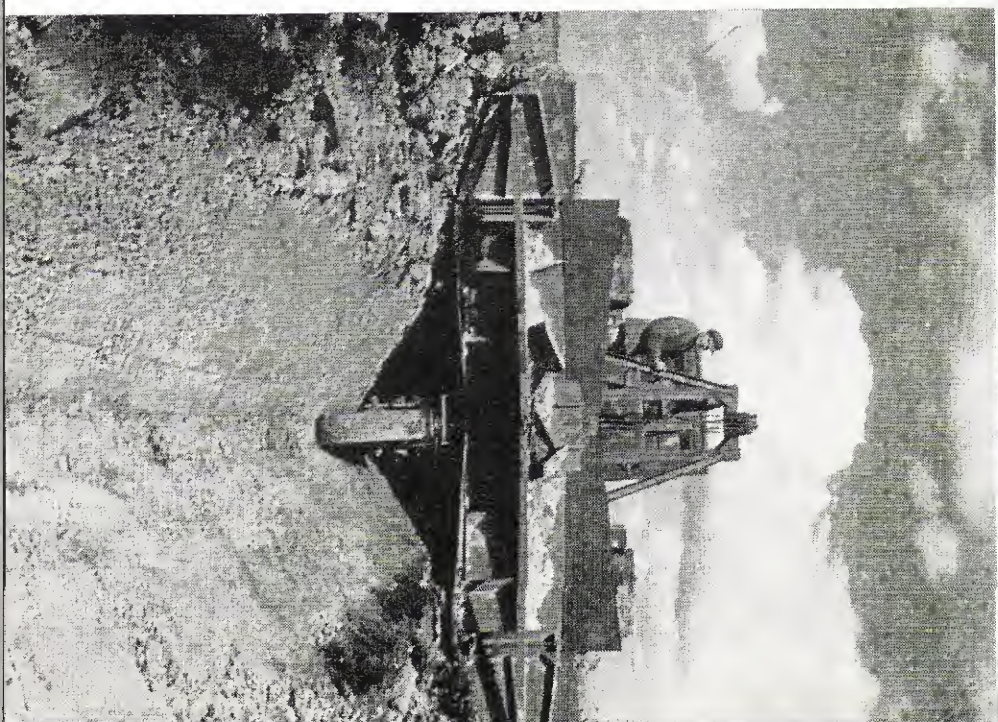


Top: Dredging the main irrigation channel of the Suvorov Collective Farm, Kobrin Region.  
An ensilage harvester combine harvesting maize on the "Star" Collective Farm, Dzerzhinsk Region.

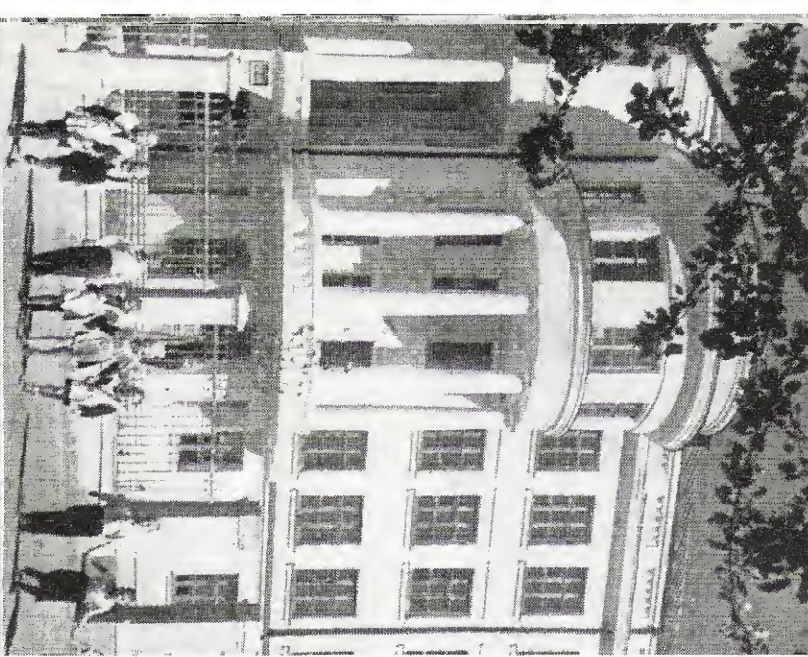


An evening at home for farmer Mikhail Buzan, his children Tamara and Sasha and his wife Lyuba, of the Kalinin Collective Farm, Nesvizh District, Minsk Region.

A useful machine which makes drainage ditches and irrigation channels for the Ponomarenko Collective Farm, Rudensk District.

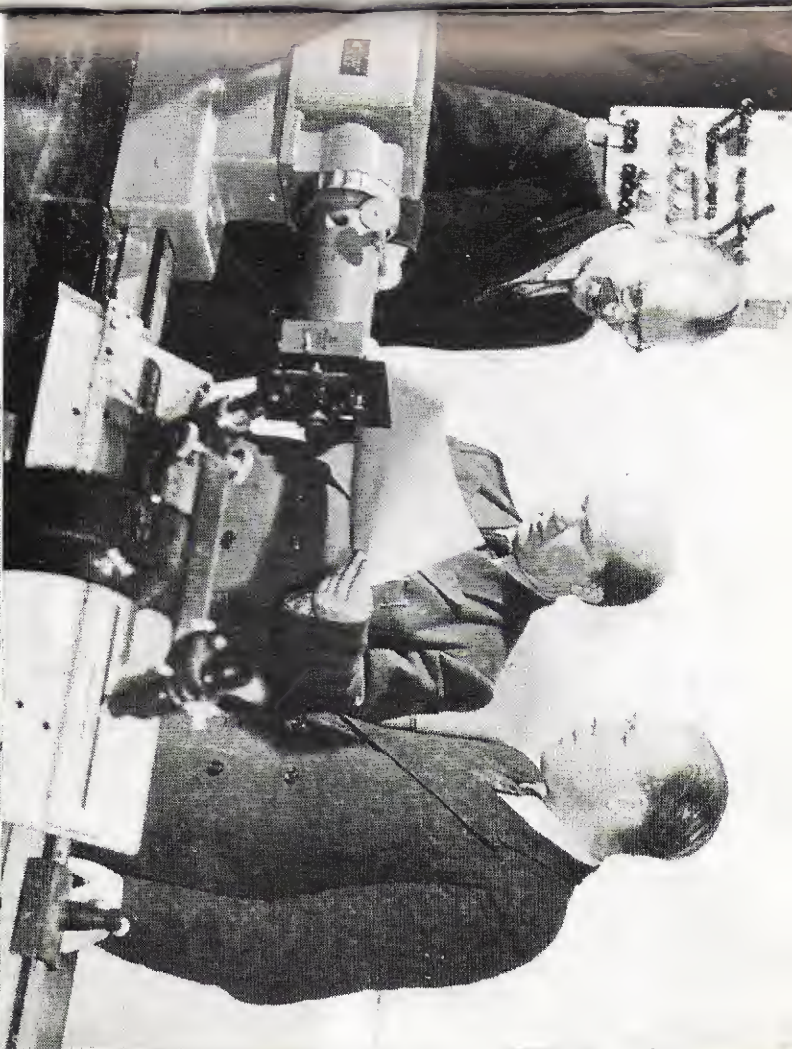
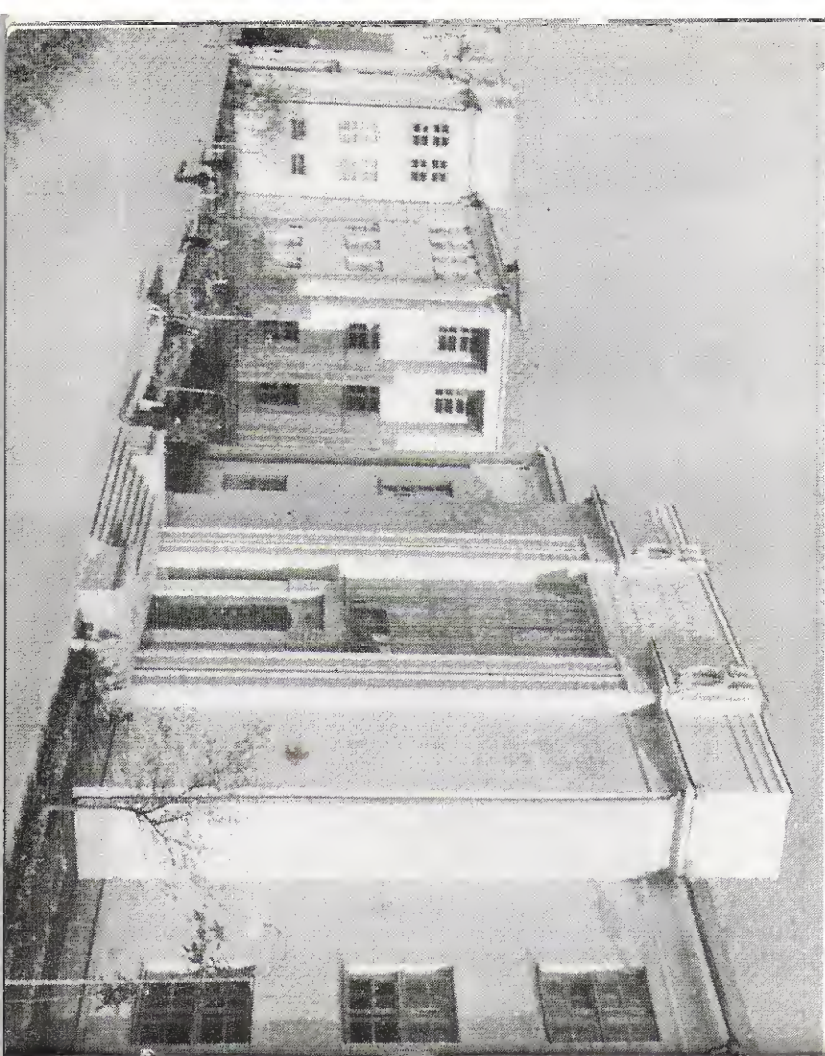






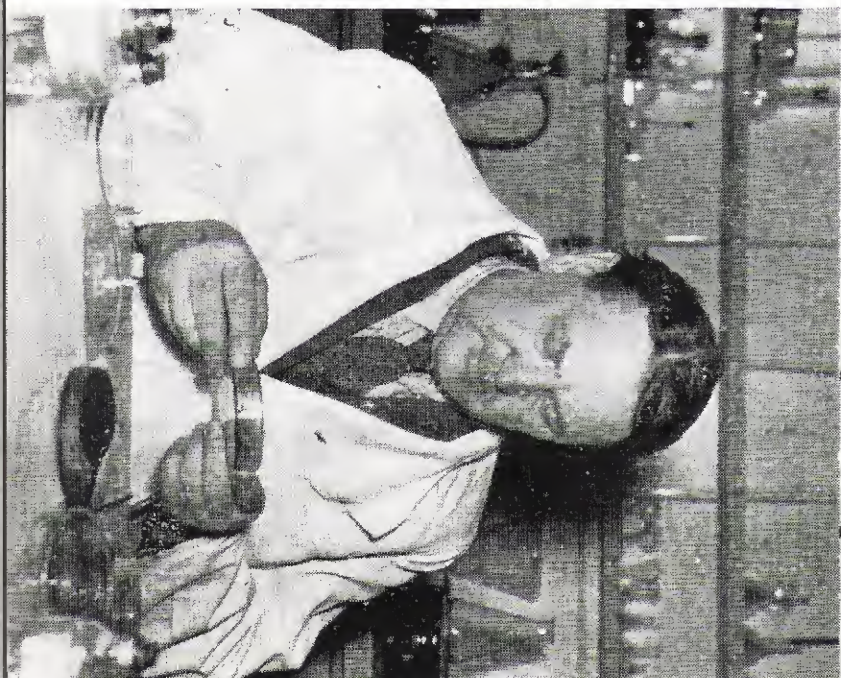
*Bystorussian youngsters leaving their school in Minsk.*

*The buildings of the Bystorussian University in Minsk established nearly forty years ago.*

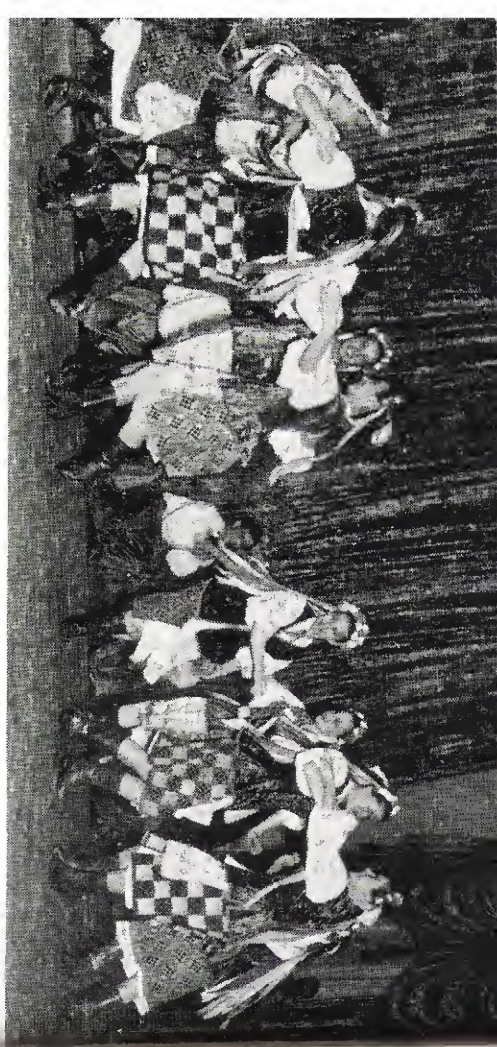


*Boris Stepanov (top centre) is the Director of the Institute of Physics and Mathematics of the Bystorussian Academy of Sciences in Minsk. Here he is in the laboratory of atomic and molecular spectroscopy.*

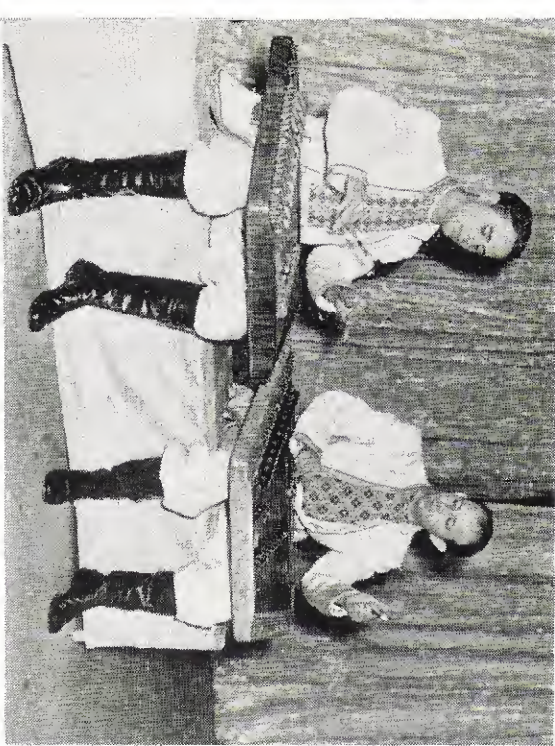
*Vasilii Kuprevich, President of the Bystorussian Academy of Sciences, in his laboratory.*





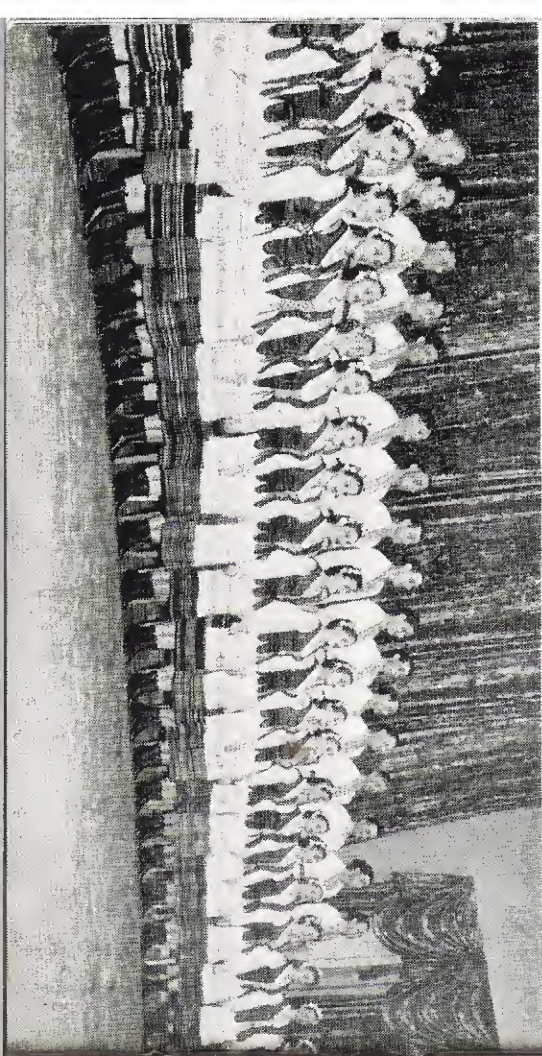


**Byelorussian Song and Dance.**



**Top: the Dance Group of the State Folk Choir.**  
**Left: Byelorussian cymbalists V. Burkovich and A. Smetkin play a traditional folk song, "Ymochki".**

**Below: the Byelorussian State Choir singing in the Moscow Tchekovsky Conservatoire during a Festival of Byelorussian Art and Literature.**



relay radios in fourteen communities, and is building a new clubhouse seating 600. Over a hundred new homes have been built.

Khrushchov, when quoting these figures in one of his reports, said that the rapid advance of the Chkalov collective farm was "one of many such instances".

And indeed, Byelorussia now has hundreds of collective farms which have achieved such successes and even greater.

### **For the Sake of Man**

In the Soviet Union the development of the economy is not an end in itself. It is merely the means for improving the life of each and every Soviet person, for making that life more secure and more cultured.

To satisfy the growing demands of the people to the maximum degree is the aim of material production in our society.

"What is more important in the building of communism," says Khrushchov, "is the production of material values to improve the people's standard of living."

Our economic achievements have led to an improvement in our well-being.

**As compared with the pre-war year, 1940, the actual earnings of the people throughout the country as a whole were almost twice as high in 1958 and the incomes of the collective farmers figured on the basis of one working person went up more than twice.**

This increase is also typical of Byelorussia. It has been achieved not only as a result of the direct increase in wages and a reduction in prices, but also because of the increase in state expenditures on pensions, various allowances and benefits, free tuition, and free medical service.

Total expenses on social and cultural measures in Byelorussia have increased threefold as compared with the year 1940, and they are continuing to grow. In 1959 4,294 million roubles were spent on social and cultural measures in Byelorussia.

The Byelorussian Ministry of Education spent 2,351,200,000 roubles—half of it on the maintenance of elementary, secondary and boarding schools. Thus every family with children enjoys benefit from this source of "invisible" income.

### **Education and Health**

Byelorussia has a widely-developed network of schools. It surpasses such countries as Britain, France and Italy in the number of pupils per 1,000 of the population. The number of teachers is seven times greater than in pre-revolutionary times.

All education is free. Instruction in the schools is conducted in the Byelorussian language, but there are also schools where instruction is conducted in Russian.

Before the October Revolution the Tsarist Government spent about 20 kopeks a year per person for the needs of public health. In 1958 the Ministry of Public Health budget amounted to 1,130 million roubles, or 140 roubles per person.



**Today Byelorussia has one doctor for 820 people, instead of the former one per 10,000 people. Furthermore, the Republic has 40,000 nurses, which is twenty times more than in the old days.**

In urgent cases a doctor can be brought from Minsk by plane to a seriously sick person, no matter where he is, within 1½-2 hours after being called. It should be mentioned that, as everywhere else in the Soviet Union, all medical aid is free of charge.

Illness is always an unpleasant occurrence, but there is consolation in the fact that in Byelorussia even the most serious cases do not involve one in any financial burdens.

### **Housing Progress**

In the years following the war state housing construction in cities and workers' settlements in Byelorussia covered an area of 145,260,000 square feet\* (almost 60 square feet per urban dweller).

In addition to this 616,000 houses (one house per nine people) were built in the rural districts, chiefly with the aid of state credit. Although this is a great deal, as everyone will readily admit, the housing situation in Byelorussia is still a very urgent one, a fact that need not be concealed.

But one must not overlook the rapidity with which the urban population is growing and the terrible destruction caused by the war, especially in the cities.

**It can be said without exaggeration that Minsk, with more than half a million people, Gomel, Vitebsk, and Polotsk have been virtually rebuilt.**

The speed of housing construction keeps increasing all the time. We are therefore confident that this problem will be fully solved in the near future.

Retail trade is an excellent barometer of rising living standards. In 1958 this retail trade amounted to 18,400 million roubles, or 2½ times as much as before the Second World War.

In 1958 state and co-op shops sold over 2½ times as much as in 1940, the sale of milk and dairy products being up 13 times, and butter 3½ times.

The type of goods in demand has also changed. For instance, compared with 1952, industrial workers have spent 10 times as much in 1958 on radios, TV sets and musical instruments, 26 times as much on motor cars, motor-cycles and bicycles, and 3 times the amount on watches and clocks.

There is a particular index which reflects the sum total of the improvement in people's well-being.

**The average life-span in our country today is sixty-four years instead of the previous thirty-two,**

The total mortality rate has dropped almost threefold as compared with 1913, and it is 1.5-1.6 times less than in Britain and France and 1.3 times below the United States figure.

\* Equivalent to about 350,000 flats.

### **Cultural Advance**

The rise in material output has been accompanied by great achievements in the development of culture. We have already referred to the schools.

As for higher educational institutions, Byelorussia has greatly surpassed such countries as Britain and France in the number of students per 1,000 of the population.

**The Republic has more than 200,000 specialists with a secondary school and higher education employed in its national economy.**

Byelorussia has its own Academy of Sciences and Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a State University, twenty-four other higher educational establishments, and more than ninety-three scientific institutions with over 5,000 scientific workers, 2,000 of them having a doctor's or master's degree.

Culture has come within the reach of everyone. There are in the Republic more than 20,000 libraries (or one library for every 400 people) with more than 48 million volumes, about 6,000 clubhouses and Palaces of Culture, twenty-eight museums, eleven theatres, 260 newspapers, fifteen magazines and seventy-three other periodicals, which are published in a total of about 287 million copies a year.

Before the October Revolution about one book per twenty-five people was published in Byelorussia. In 1958 the publishing houses of the Republic put out over 15 million copies, or two books per person.

Most of the books, newspapers and journals are published in the Byelorussian language.

A considerable number of periodicals come out in two languages, Byelorussian and Russian.

Byelorussian literature, which has become widely known through its national poets Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas, is developing successfully.

The novels and stories of the Byelorussian prose writers Mikhas Lynkov, Ivan Shamyakin, Yanka Bryl, the verse of Petrus Brovka, Arkadi Kuleshov, Maxim Tank, Pimen Panchenko, Petrus Glebka, and many others are popular in the Soviet Union and abroad.

Byelorussian drama has won notable success. The plays of the Byelorussian playwrights, Kondrat Krapiva and others, are performed by many theatres in the Soviet Union. Our Republic has its own professional music, painting, sculpture, theatre, and national opera. Byelorussian composers like Yevgeni Tikotsky, Nikolai Churkin, Vladimir Olovnikov have written many operas, symphonies and popular songs.

Byelorussian painters and sculptors have made a large contribution to the treasury of Soviet art. There is not a single branch of culture which Byelorussians have not influenced.

### **"Bread and Roses"**

Such are the results of these forty years. The Byelorussian people are rightly proud of them and express their deep thanks to the Communist Party, which pointed out the way of a new life, directed their efforts



in the struggle against the invaders, and to build up their mighty economy and develop Byelorussian culture, as well as improve the wellbeing of the people.

Everywhere, whether on the battlefield or in peaceful labour, the Communists have always been to the fore, setting an example of how to fight for the common cause.

We regard our achievements as a starting point, as a spring-board for further advance. Our ultimate aim is to build a society with an abundance of material goods and spiritual culture, a society in which, as Marx expressed it, "there will be sufficient bread and roses for everyone," and where the principle: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs" will be fully carried out.

During the current seven-year period we will, together with the rest of the country, take a decisive step towards Communism which means towards abundance.

### **Decisive Step to the Future**

The Seven-Year Plan (1959-65) affords tremendous opportunities for the development of Byelorussia's economy, science and culture.

Our seven-year plan is an integral part of the all-union plan, and our task is identical with that of the entire country, namely, to take a decisive step during the current seven-year period towards creating the material and technical basis for a communist society and to ensure a considerable improvement in the standard of living and cultural level of the people.

It is planned to invest 32,000 million roubles in the development of the national economy of Byelorussia during the seven-year period. This is more than twice the amount invested in the preceding seven years and about as much as was spent during the forty years of the Republic's existence.

### **Our Mighty Steed**

"The development of industry, the growth of the means of production constitute our mighty steed," Khrushchov said at the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. "If we have that, we will have everything else."

And indeed, in a society which has set itself the task of achieving a constant increase in consumption, the production of the means of production must proceed at a pace more rapid than the other.

During these seven years the total volume of industrial production in Byelorussia will increase by 80 per cent.

The seven-year plan provides for the accelerated development of the chemical and fuel industries, power engineering, machine-building, and the building materials industry.

A branch of industry which is entirely new for Byelorussia, oil-refining, will be created, and new types of goods will be produced by the chemical, instrument-making, electrotechnical, radiotechnical, light and food industries.

**The average annual increase in industrial output will amount to approximately 9 per cent, and the rate of development will constantly rise.**

How will the basic branches of industry develop?

### **Chemical Industry**

More than 2,000 million roubles are being invested for its development. Gross output of the chemical industry will increase by almost 250 per cent.

The Soligorsk potassium works will be one of the largest chemical enterprises. It is being built on the basis of the Starobinsk potassium deposits. The first section of the works will be ready for operation in 1963.

By the end of the seven-year period Byelorussia will produce more than 20 per cent of the Soviet Union's potassium fertilisers.

Superphosphate and nitrogen-fertiliser plants will also be built, and production of chemical fibres will be widely developed, increasing by 230-250 per cent.

Many types of goods, as yet not produced in the Republic, will be manufactured on the basis of the synthetic- and polymer-materials processing industry.

### **Power Engineering**

Although the production of electric power in Byelorussia today is 914 times the pre-revolutionary figure, the Republic still needs to increase its electricity capacities even more.

In 1965 the total capacity of the Republic's power stations will amount to 1,610,000 kw, and the production of electric power will exceed 7,000 million k.w.h., which is 160 per cent more than the 1958 figure.

**A unified electric power grid will be created in Byelorussia. All towns and district centres as well as 85 per cent of the collective farms will be included in it.**

During the seven-year period the Beryozovskaya state district power station, the largest in Byelorussia, will be built, as well as the Polotsk oil refinery. The construction of the Vasilivichi state district power station will also be completed, the first section of which will supply current for the enterprises of Gomel, Rechitsa and other towns.

The capacity of the existing electric power stations will be greatly increased as well as that of the Minsk heating and power plant No. 3, the Vitebsk, and the Baranovich, and the electric network will be extended.

All of these measures will make it possible to complete the entire electrification of Byelorussia in the briefest possible period.

### **Fuel Industry**

The current seven-year period will witness radical changes in the fuel balance of the Republic. The use of coal will be greatly reduced until its share in the fuel balance will be cut in half. In spite of the great increase in the extraction of peat its share in the fuel balance will also be lowered. But the amount of liquid fuel consumed will increase more than fourfold.

The Polotsk oil refinery is our largest fuel industry project during the seven-year plan. It will supply fuel and lubricating oils not only to Byelorussia, but to the entire Baltic area, Kaliningrad Region and several other regions of the country.



Oil will be conveyed to the banks of the Western Dvina from the banks of the Volga, from Bashkirta and Tataria via a main pipeline 1,250 miles long.

Byelorussia will receive natural gas via the Dashava-Minsk gas line and a branch of the existing main line Dashava-Kiev-Bryansk-Moscow. The cities of Minsk, Brest, Volkovysk, Grodno, Gornel and others will also receive gas.

**Calculations show that by the end of the seven-year plan gas will be replacing an annual amount of about 7 million tons of peat, i.e., almost as much as was extracted during the entire year 1957.**

At the same time the amount of peat extracted in the Republic will be increased by two-thirds, reaching the figure of 14,800,000 tons as compared with 8,900,000 tons in 1958. New powerful peat enterprises—fully mechanised—will be set up.

### **Machine Building and Tool-Making**

In 1965 Byelorussia will produce 18 per cent of all the U.S.S.R.'s tractors and 9 per cent of all its metal-cutting machine-tools, a considerable percentage of its automobiles, especially super-heavy lorries, as well as of its bearings and radios.

It is planned to increase production of the machine-building and metal-working industries by 120 per cent in these seven years. This rise in output will be achieved mainly by improving the organisation of production, in particular its specialisation, by introducing automation and complex mechanisation, by using the most up-to-date technology, and by modernising equipment.

Since 1959 the Minsk tractor plant has been specialising in the production of wheeled tractors. The staff of the plant is currently engaged in designing improved, high-speed tractors. Output of machines at this plant will increase almost threefold, without much capital investment.

**The production of metal-cutting lathes in the Republic will go up by 30 per cent. The Minsk works for automatic transfer lines and special aggregate machine-tools will be one of the finest enterprises in Soviet Byelorussia.**

While still under construction it is already turning out machinery.

By the end of the current seven-year period this plant is to produce thirty-five automatic transfer lines a year.

The radio and electrotechnical industry and the tool-making industry will develop at a rapid pace. Output of TV sets, for instance, will increase tenfold, and the TV sets will be further improved. One of the models of the Minsk radio plant, the "Belarus" TV combine, was exhibited at the Soviet exhibition in New York.

A big increase is also planned in the output of watches and clocks, radio sets, cameras, motor-cycles, pianos, sewing machines, and electrical household appliances.

### **Light Industry**

The total output of light industry will increase 70 per cent by 1965.

A branch of industry new to Byelorussia, the cotton goods industry,

will be created, and the production of fine linen fabrics will be organised, as well as of other types of goods, such as artificial leather and processed sheepskins. Byelorussia will also increase its production of rugs, woollen and linen fabrics, and footwear.

One of the largest building projects of the seven-year plan is the cotton fabrics mill in Baranovich, which is to have 240,000 spindles and 4,000 weaving looms, and an annual production of 88 million yards of fabrics.

The seven-year plan also provides for the construction of a second section for the Orsha mill, which in 1965 will produce about nine million yards of linen fabrics (piece goods), a linen mill in Molodechno, to have an annual capacity of 16½ million yards of fine fabrics, and a flax mill in Brest, which will provide yarn for the production of rugs. These three new enterprises should be able to process half of Byelorussia's entire flax crop.

By operating the Minsk worsted mill at full capacity and by expanding two fine-fabrics mills, it will be possible to increase the production of woollen fabrics by more than 350 per cent, bringing it up to 2.4 yards per head of population.

By the end of the seven-year period the production of rugs will amount to 4 million square yards, which is almost twice the amount put out in 1958.

Output of the shoe industry will reach the figure of 24,300,000 pairs in 1965. New shoe factories will be opened in Grodno and Baranovich, and the existing factory in Lida will be fundamentally reconstructed and expanded.

Byelorussia's light industry will get several other new large enterprises, among them a ribbon-making factory in Mogilyov, ten flax and hemp factories, a huge tannery in Molodechno, and an artificial leather factory in Pinsk. Production of furniture, window glass, and dishes, especially high-grade artistic articles, will be increased.

### **Food Industry**

The rapid advance of agriculture has created a firm basis for the all-round development of the food industry. Total production of foodstuffs will increase 60 per cent during the current seven-year period.

Production of meat will be 120 per cent more by 1965, sausage and smoked foods—70 per cent more, and there will be a sharp increase in the output of bacon and preserved delicatessen.

The dairy industry will raise output 180 per cent, while the production of dietetic and children's dairy foods and condensed sterilised milk will increase even more. Production of cheese will be trebled.

Byelorussia will become an important sugar refining area, the output of the sugar increasing 5 to 6 times during the seven-year period.

Output of fruit and vegetable preserves will be doubled, production of confectioneries will increase by more than a third, and of bread by over 20 per cent (chiefly due to the increased demand by the rural population for factory-produced foodstuffs).

Production of beer and grape wines will also be much greater.



## A New Leap in Agriculture

A new leap forward will take place in agriculture during the current seven-year period. It will be concentrated on intensive livestock breeding for dairy and meat products, on hog-breeding for meat, on raising waterfowl, and also on growing potatoes, fibre flax and sugar beet.

As compared with 1958, production of flax fibre in 1965 will go up by 30 per cent, potatoes about 110 per cent, sugar beet 220-260 per cent, grain 130-160 per cent, meat 100 per cent and milk 90-100 per cent.

The following table shows the level of development to be attained by our agriculture by the end of the seven-year plan.

*Production in cwt. per 100 acres of farm land.*

	U.S.S.R.		Byelorussia		United States	
	1965	1965	1965	1965	1957	1957
Grain .. .. .	..	..	263-288	280-320	224	224
Potatoes .. ..	..	..	235	1,280-1,360	15	15
Meat (in slaughter weight) ..	..	..	25.6	72	23	23
Milk .. .. .	..	..	160-168	400-440	81	81

An increase in the yield will be the chief source for this increase in field-crop cultivation. By the end of the seven-year period the average yield of grain crops will reach the figure of 12 cwt. per acre, potatoes 128 cwt., sugar beet 144 cwt., vegetables 148 cwt. and flax fibre and flax seed 3.2 cwt.

One can readily appreciate the feasibility of these targets from the fact that the most advanced collective and state farms have been obtaining 12-16 cwt. of grain per acre, 160-176 cwt. of potatoes, and 4-5 cwt. of flax fibre for some time.

**Under our conditions treating the soil with fertilisers is a decisive means for raising yields. The production of organic fertilisers will be almost doubled during these seven years and will amount to about 80 million tons, or 6.4 tons per acre of crops.**

The use of mineral fertilisers will be greatly increased and chalking of soils will be conducted on a large scale.

Another way to increase harvests is to extend the area under cultivation. During the current seven-year period it will be increased by 2½ million acres through the cultivation of drained peat-bogs, and also by doing away with bare fallow.

In order to ensure the planned increase in production of milk and meat Byelorussian collective and state farms will increase the number of cattle and fowl as follows:

	1965 in per-centage c't	
	1958	1965
<i>in thousands of head</i>		
Cattle .. .. .	1,654	2,765
Of that number—cows ..	661	1,231
Hogs .. .. .	1,086	3,205
Sheep .. .. .	798	1,432
Fowl .. .. .	1,387	3,055
	20	21

The number of cows per 100 acres of farmland will increase about twofold, hogs per 100 acres of arable land 150-200 per cent, fowl per 100 acres of grain-growing soil about twofold.

The livestock will be provided with a reliable fodder base. By the end of the seven-year period fodder crops will constitute about a third of all crops, which will make it possible to make a big increase in the productivity of all kinds of livestock and fowls.

State and collective farms will give the state 100 per cent of its grain and vegetables, 90 per cent of potatoes, 96 per cent of meat, over 98 per cent of milk, and almost 94 per cent of wool.

The collective farms and state farms are a decisive force in providing the country with foodstuffs. We regard this as an outstanding victory not only of agriculture, but of all communist construction.

## Mechanisation and Electrification

The current seven-year period will be a period of intensified mechanisation and electrification in agriculture.

**By the end of 1965 all state farms and collective farms will have electricity.**

The amount of electric power consumed by the collective farms will increase tenfold. The level of mechanisation of sowing and planting of the spring crops will be increased to 83 per cent, the harvesting of the grain crops to 80 per cent, the harvesting of flax to 90 per cent, and the harvesting of potatoes to 60 per cent, while the level of inter-row cultivation of the crops will reach the figure of 65 per cent.

The incomplete mechanisation of all field work is due to the fact that there are a number of places which, owing to their relief and location, cannot be mechanised, and where sowing and harvesting can be accomplished only by horse traction.

As regards large tracts of land, field work on these will be mechanised almost 100 per cent.

Plans have been made for the large-scale mechanisation of laborious work in livestock breeding. By the end of the seven-year period mechanisation of water delivery will be increased from 30 to 70-80 per cent, the mechanisation of milking from 2 to 60 per cent, and the electro-mechanical shearing of sheep from 19 to 70 per cent.

The level of mechanisation at state farms will be even higher.

## Fulfilling the Plan Ahead of Time

Such is the programme for the development of Byelorussia's economy during the current seven years. The Byelorussian people are confronted with important, difficult tasks, but these tasks will be fulfilled.

The entire seven-year plan is scientifically founded, and it rests upon a basis that has already been created, upon the creative energy of millions who are building their own happiness.

The very first year of the plan has shown its complete reality. Byelorussian industry and agriculture are not only fulfilling their set tasks, but are exceeding them.



Following the initiative of the foremost enterprises and collective farms of the Republic, a wide movement has got under way for fulfilling the seven-year plan ahead of time.

**Byelorussia's automobile workers have undertaken to fulfil their seven-year production plan in six years and their plan for heavy lorry output in five-and-a-half years.**

**The tractor builders have decided to fulfil their seven-year plan in six years and to produce in 1960 2,000 tractors above plan without supplementary capital investments.**

The workers of the machine-tool plants intend to reach the 1965 planned production level in 1963 and to produce 100-150 per cent more automatic transfer lines during the seven-year period than are called for by the plan.

Workers of the Minsk bearing plant and many other enterprises have also determined to fulfil their plans a year ahead of time.

The movement for fulfilling the seven-year plan ahead of time has also taken hold of the collective farm areas.

**Many collective farms have undertaken to reach the indicated production level in five, four, and even three years instead of seven.**

The seven-year plan has given rise to the remarkable movement of communist work teams, a movement which is embracing ever greater numbers of workers and collective farmers.

One of these teams is that of Arkadi Digilevich, a member of the Communist Party and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of Byelorussia. He heads a team of plasterers which has been overfulfilling its work quotas day after day. All members of the team study. The team leader himself is finishing at the architectural-building secondary school; and the others attend evening schools, the people's university of culture, or study by correspondence.

### **In Gaganova's Footsteps**

The example set by Valentina Gaganova, the Vysny Volochek spinner, is being widely followed at the enterprises of Byelorussia.

Valentina Gaganova voluntarily, on her own initiative, transferred to a lagging team although she well knew that in the beginning her earnings would be less and she would have to work harder. But in a brief period she enabled this backward team to advance to the front ranks.

Gaganova's feat reflects a conscious, communist attitude towards work. This young woman was inspired by a noble goal, that of serving her enterprise, the entire people, society as a whole.

Among the first to follow her example in Byelorussia was Anatoly Sokolov, a steel founder at the Minsk motor works, head of the best team in the steel foundry shop, which had won the title of "communist work team".

Sokolov undertook to reorganise the work of a team which was retarding the entire steel foundry shop. And he did so. The team began to work better than all the others and it has now undertaken to produce

enough steel by the end of the year to make up for the debt it had accumulated when it had lagged behind.

Scores of workers at the Minsk worsted mill are also following Valentina Gaganova's example.

Any number of such examples could be cited. What motivates these people? The desire to fulfil ahead of time the seven-year plan, the most magnificent programme of economic and cultural construction the world has ever known.

### **A Still Better Life**

There is no field of life in which the seven-year plan will not make great changes for the better.

The actual earnings of factory workers and office employees will increase by 40 per cent during these seven years, both as a result of the rise in their cash earnings as well as through further reductions in prices.

The actual incomes of collective farmers will also increase no less than 40 per cent during this period.

All heavy, arduous work will be mechanised. In 1960 the transition of factory workers and office employees to a seven-hour working day will be completed, and beginning with 1964 the transition to a 30-35-hour working week will be undertaken.

The U.S.S.R. will have the shortest working day and working week in the world—a five-day week.

The consumption of food will be greatly improved during this seven-year period, and people will consume more butter, milk, meat, sugar and fruit. Soviet people will have a sufficiency of good-quality, attractive clothing and footwear.

The *per capita* consumption of meat and fats will increase from 81.8 lbs. in 1958 to 156 lbs. in 1965; of milk and dairy products, from 570 lbs. to 926 lbs.; eggs, from 86 to 118; sugar, from 21.8 to 44.9 lbs.; fish and fish products, from 16.3 to 31.5 lbs.

The sale of fabrics, clothing and knitted goods will more than double in Byelorussia, whereas the average increase for the U.S.S.R. will be 87 per cent.

The sale of TV sets, radios, cameras, musical instruments, refrigerators, washing machines and vacuum cleaners, in a word, everything that lightens the work of women and improves the living conditions of the people, will be greatly increased.

All these changes will be strikingly reflected in increased trade: in 1965 it will amount to 30,700 million roubles as compared with 17,800 million roubles in 1958, or 3,464 roubles per head of population in 1965 as against 2,176 roubles in 1958.

**The vast housing construction programme is being successfully carried out. Some 375,000 flats will be built in cities and workers' settlements or more than twice the number built in the preceding seven-year period.**

The cities will be beautified and modernised. Minsk, Gomel, Brest, Vitebsk and other towns will get 525 miles of gas pipelines and 200,000 apartments will receive gas.

The water mains will be extended by more than 675 miles. District



heating will be applied on a wider scale, and the telephone network and capacity of the telephone stations will be increased.

Trolleybus transport will be introduced in Mogilyov, Gomel and Brest, and Minsk will get new trolleybus lines.

**The collective-farm villages will also undergo many changes. Hundreds of villages will be built according to architectural projects and life in the rural districts will more closely approximate urban life. All collective farmers will have electricity and radios in their homes, and TV will be further developed.**

Public health services will be further developed. By the end of the seven-year plan Byelorussia will have seventy-five hospital beds for every 10,000 of the population, and one doctor for every 635 people instead of one for every 820, as is the situation today.

The nurseries will be able to accommodate 27,000 more children than they do today, and the kindergartens twice the present figure.

Public school education, higher education, science, the press, the radio and the TV will rise to an even higher level. The total number of pupils in the schools will reach the figure of almost 1½ million, which is 24 per cent more than today's figure. More than 100,000 of these children will live at boarding schools.

During this seven-year period Byelorussia will get fifty-three new cinema theatres, fifty-five district houses of culture, ten libraries, a new cinema studio, another TV centre, another drama theatre, and many other cultural institutions.

### **Towards World's Highest Living Standard**

Such is the Byelorussian seven-year plan.

The noble historical goal it has set itself is to take a decisive step, together with the rest of the country, towards creating the highest standard of living in the world.

This goal is the vital concern of the entire Soviet people. In order to achieve this, the Soviet people need only one thing, and that is peace.

The seven-year plan is convincing proof of the peace-loving aspirations of the Soviet Union.

**It is quite clear that a state which is developing stupendous construction of new factories, plants, power stations, mines, which is assigning colossal sums to housing construction—and all with the aim of further improving the living standards of the people—does not, and cannot, want war.**

The Byelorussian people have traversed a great and glorious path under the leadership of the Communist Party. And under this same leadership, marching side by side and hand in hand with the other peoples of the Soviet Union, it will achieve its cherished goal—the building of a real communist society.

## **THE FIFTEEN**

### **SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

### **TODAY AND TOMORROW**



The complete list to be published in this series is as follows:

- A. RUSSIAN S.F.S.R.
- B. UKRAINIAN S.S.R.
- C. BYELORUSSIAN S.S.R.
- D. UZBEK S.S.R.
- E. KAZAKH S.S.R.
- F. GEORGIAN S.S.R.
- G. AZERBAIJAN S.S.R.
- H. LITHUANIAN S.S.R.
- I. MOLDAVIAN S.S.R.
- J. LATVIAN S.S.R.
- K. KIRGHIZ S.S.R.
- L. TAJIK S.S.R.
- M. ARMENIAN S.S.R.
- N. TURKMENIAN S.S.R.
- O. ESTONIAN S.S.R.

*All the above booklets cost 6d. each*



